

WxCODER III

The NWS (National Weather Service) COOP (Cooperative Observer Program) consists of thousands of dedicated volunteers that take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The weather data COOP observers collect on a daily basis is truly representative of where people live, work and play. Since 1890, COOP has fulfilled key mission elements such as, providing observational meteorological data usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes. In addition, COOP provides observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS through daily reporting systems called WxCODER (Weather Transmitted Observer Data Encoded Report) and IV-ROCS (Interactive Voice- Remote Observation Collection System).

The NWS transitioned from WxCoder 2 to WxCoder 3 on February 1, 2008. WxCoder 3 includes enhanced web-based capabilities that will allow observers to provide the NWS data more quickly and accurately while also reducing costs.

WxCoder 3 offers a number of improvements for both, the observer and also the NWS, as well as other agencies who work to collect, quality control, and redistribute the COOP data. Improvement of the new WxCoder 3 system includes a user-friendly web interface including new help menus. Monthly forms also now automatically sum and average temperature, precipitation and snowfall observations. WxCoder 3 provides immediate data quality assurance through several routine functions and also provides more space for the observer remarks. There is also an advanced WFO administrative interface. NWS supervising offices can customize observer inputs and ensure easy & timely two-way communication with observers.

WxCoder 3 also provides enhanced front-end data quality control features, which significantly reduce data errors from manual entry of daily data, keypunch errors, and incorrect administrative information.

The weather data collected by the multitudes of dedicated COOP observers around the nation is invaluable, and now the NWS and the many users of the COOP data can see it on a daily basis thanks to WxCODER 3.